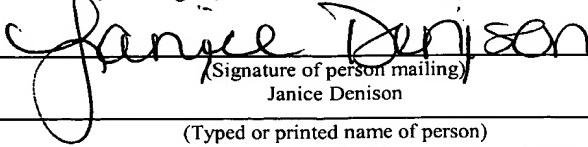




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 3rd day of September, 2002.

  
(Signature of person mailing)  
 Janice Denison

(Typed or printed name of person)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: **Mark D. Fidock**

APPLICATION NO.: **09/471,459** : Examiner: **P.A. Duffy**

FILING DATE: **December 22, 1999** : Group Art Unit: **1645**

TITLE: **Enzyme PDE xiv**

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**

SEP 09 2002

Sir:

RESPONSE

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

In response to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2002, Applicant answers as follows.

Remarks

The Examiner has stated that the claims fail to comply with the sequence rules. The rules require that all sequences in the specification and claims refer to SEQ ID NOS, and this has been done. For example, Claim 1 refers to Formula 1 in the specification, and Formula 1 clearly uses sequence identification numbers for all components thereof as required by the rules. Thus, Applicant has complied with the rules.

The Examiner has stated that a substitute specification is required comprising the changes to the specification made in the Preliminary Amendment dated 12/22/99. This substitute specification is attached.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant hereby elects Group I with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that at least groups I and II should be combined for examination in the present application, since the amino acid sequences of Group I and the nucleotide sequences of Group II are entirely reflective of one another. All of the amino acid sequences of Group I are PDE\_XIV proteins, and all of the nucleotide

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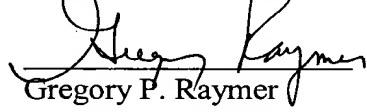
sequences of Group II encode PDE\_XIV proteins. As such, any search relevant to one would also perform the task of searching for the other. In fact, in order to properly and fully search the amino acid sequences of Group I, it will be necessary for the Examiner to search the nucleotide sequences of Group II, as disclosures often exist in which the nucleotide sequence is given without providing the corresponding amino acid sequence derivable therefrom. Applicant hereby respectfully submits that it is therefore proper to combine Groups I and II herein.

In response to the requirement to elect a species, Applicant hereby elects SEQ ID NO:5 with traverse.

A Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Date: 9/3/02

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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